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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Emergency Medical Care Committee
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Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Immunization
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

MISSION STATEMENT

"As advisor to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system."

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Members Present

Bull, R.N., Pat – American Red Cross
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Assoc.
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics' Agencies Comm.
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Schroeder, David – Fourth District
Scott, Chief Mike – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association

County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, R.N., Marcy
Pate, R.N., Rebecca

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Members Absent

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Assoc.
Cerny, Barbara – Third District
Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hosp. Nurse Coord.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies
Skoglund, R.N., Patty – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imp. Co.

Guests Present

Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Medical Services Enterprise
Kusman, Travis – American Medical Response
Nugyen, Tue – American Heart Association
Steen, R.N., Pam – Mercy Air
Yates, Judith – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties

Vacant

Binational EMCC
Emergency Physicians' Society
League of California Cities
Military Agencies
San Diego County Medical Society

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Graham, Vice-Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Jim Marugg, to approve the Minutes of April 24, 2008 as submitted. MOTION carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital

Discussion ensued on revisions to policy S-440. Concern was raised over expiration dates of particular caches of autoinjector supplies. One advantage of the Chempack program is that a cache of antidotes can be stored at various specified locations in a controlled environment so it has a longer shelf life. Unfortunately, Chempack supplies are not to be distributed unless an actual event occurs.

ACTION: Bruce Haynes, M.D. , EMS Medical Director will check into the timeliness of having Chempacks delivered and report back at the next EMCC meeting.

ACTION: The Fire Chiefs will look into whether or not there could be funding for this from USAI (Urban Area Security Initiative) and whether or not Chempacks could be placed in the hands of first responders.

MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Chief Mike Scott, to approve policy S-440 as submitted. MOTION carried.

V. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

Hospital Capacity Plan: Years ago a Hospital Capacity Plan was developed by the County to deal with the winter influenza season. This year the group has already met twice. This year there will be a number of changes this year to make it more operational at the lower levels and will incorporate some of the recent information on hospital emergency room overcrowding and offload delays into the Plan.

First Watch: A task force has been looking at ways to use First Watch which is connected to dispatch agencies and reports how long units are tied up waiting to get back into service. First Watch allows triggers to occur so people can be notified directly to their cell phone for example. Concern arose as to where the data is going, what the triggers are and who's going to review the data. Dr. Haynes stated that there's going to be a two-month trial to examine the data.

POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) Form: Copies were distributed of this form regarding whether or not to attempt resuscitation. The form is a Physician's Order sheet based on the person's medical condition and wishes and is broken down into five sections: A: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation; B: Medical Interventions; C: Antibiotics; D: Artificially Administered Nutrition; and E: Summary of Medical Condition and Signatures. The form has been signed into State law and will take effect January 1, 2009.

Stroke Update: Hospital reviews for stroke will begin this autumn and continue through the winter in an attempt to have hospitals certified to receive acute stroke patients. Some hospitals are Joint Commission certified and others may apply in the future. The County will review those hospitals who want to participate in the Stroke program but will not be applying to the Joint Commission for certification.

Fact Sheet – Management of Home-Generated Sharps for Healthcare Providers: This form was distributed which promulgates the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health's Hazardous Materials Division as the designated local enforcement agency that implements the Medical Waste Management Act throughout the entire County. The disposal of home-generated sharps is no longer allowed in regular trash. Home-generated sharps are defined as disposable hypodermic needles, needles with attached tubing, syringers, blades, lancets, acupuncture needles and other medical devices that are used to penetrate the skin for self-injection, to deliver medication, or to conduct a blood test. It was suggested that public notices go out regarding this.

Advanced EMT Program: The State EMS Commission approved the most recent version of the Advanced EMT Program.

VI. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)

Sunset Review Report: Every four years the County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office sends out a Sunset Review form to each committee in the County that is an advisory board to the County Board of Supervisors, requesting their status on whether that advisory board feels the need to continue to meet or dissolve. **ACTION: Chief Mike Scott made a Motion to approve continuing the EMCC and Jim Marugg Seconded it. MOTION carried.**

State Trauma Plan: The State is currently embarking on a State Trauma Plan. A summit was held in Sacramento on July 24, 2008 which was well attended by physicians and trauma program personnel from all over the State. They decided to divide into regions for regional trauma planning. San Diego is in the Southeast Region which also includes Imperial and San Bernardino Counties. The goal is to develop regional trauma coordinating committees.

Overcrowding Summit: The Overcrowding Summit will be held on October 8, 2008 at Sharp Spectrum in San Diego from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Featured speakers will include Steve Tharratt, M.D., the new California EMS Medical Director, Dr. Haynes, Wilma Wooten, M.D., Public Health Director, Roneet Lev, M.D., Chair, Emergency Medical Oversight Committee and Michael Williams, President, Abaris Group.

Grants Update: EMS staff are working on several grants at this time. On the disaster side, grant applications for the CDC and pandemic flu are due by October 8, 2008.

State-wide Exercise: Plans are continuing for the annual State-wide Golden Guardian exercise which will be held November 13-14 and 17-18, 2008 with an earthquake scenario. The State will be deploying a mobile field hospital to March Air Force Base near Riverside. Scripps Health has the contract with the State for the administration of that hospital and if anyone is interested in having a tour, please contact County EMS staff for arrangements.

Award Received: County EMS Medical Operations Center received a Silver Award from the Southern California Chapter of Emergency Services for its response to the fires of October, 2007 and assisting with evacuating nursing homes and hospitals.

VII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., at the County's Health Services Complex, Disaster Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS